

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Masanori KUBO

Serial No.: To be Assigned

Group Art Unit: To be Assigned

Filed: March 16, 2001

Examiner: To be Assigned

For: SERVICE PROVISION METHOD VIA A NETWORK AND SERVICE  
PROVISION SYSTEM USING THE SAME

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

3. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1,  
wherein when said server becomes accessible at said third step, information that shows  
said server becomes accessible is displayed on said client before accessing to said server.

4. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1,  
wherein when said server becomes accessible at said third step, a message that means

said server becomes accessible is uttered by voice from said client before accessing to said server.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said server becomes accessible at said third step, an E-mail that shows said server becomes accessible is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user before accessing to said server.

6. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said fixed time interval at said second step is varied according to said information of the number of accesses.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein said information of the number of accesses displayed on said client includes information that shows what number said server becomes accessible.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, wherein when said information of the number of accesses is displayed on said client, an estimated time before said server becomes accessible, which is obtained according to a time varied condition of said information of the number of accesses, is further displayed.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:

urging a password input for said user while a period before the said server becomes accessible, and accessing said client to said server at that time, regardless of said judgment whether said server becomes accessible, when authorizing that said input password is correct.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claims 1, wherein when said provided service is for commodity sales, the number of sellable goods in stock is further displayed at the time of displaying said information of the number of accesses on said client.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 15, wherein said client judges whether said server becomes accessible at said third step.

### REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Preliminary

Amendment, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 27, 2001

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please **AMEND** the following claims:

3. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1[ or 2], wherein when said server becomes accessible at said third step, information that shows said server becomes accessible is displayed on said client before accessing to said server.
4. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1[ or 2], wherein when said server becomes accessible at said third step, a message that means said server becomes accessible is uttered by voice from said client before accessing to said server.
5. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1[ or 2], wherein when said server becomes accessible at said third step, an E-mail that shows said server becomes accessible is sent to a pre-registered mail address of said user before accessing to said server.
6. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to [either of claims 1 through 5]claim 1, wherein when said fixed time interval at said second step is varied according to said information of the number of accesses.
7. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to [either of claims 1 through 6]claim 1, wherein said information of the number of accesses displayed on said client includes

information that shows what number said server becomes accessible.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to [either of claims 1 through 7]claim 1,

wherein when said information of the number of accesses is displayed on said client, an estimated time before said server becomes accessible, which is obtained according to a time varied condition of said information of the number of accesses, is further displayed.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 1[ or 2], further comprising a step of:

urging a password input for said user while a period before the said server becomes accessible, and accessing said client to said server at that time, regardless of said judgment whether said server becomes accessible, when authorizing that said input password is correct.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claims 1[ or 2], wherein when said provided service is for commodity sales, the number of sellable goods in stock is further displayed at the time of displaying said information of the number of accesses on said client.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) A service provision method according to claim 15 [or 16],

wherein said client judges whether said server becomes accessible at said third step.